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27-D
Action
ARA

Control: 13644
Rec'd: June 27, 11:16 p.m.

FROM: Guatemala City

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CIA

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1123, June 27, 7 p.m.

NIACT

At his request, I met twice today with Colonel Carlos Enrique Diaz, chief of Guatemalan armed forces who said that in view of his desire to bring present struggle to end, he was prepared take over presidency from Arbenz and clean out Communists. He requested as condition that United States use its good offices stop fighting. I agreed to do what I could.

In second meeting he told me that he had just talked with Arbenz who he described as very tired, said he could not continue without army support; that he wished leave office gracefully and that he would go on national radio hookup at 9 p.m. tonight to announce that he was turning over presidency to Diaz and requesting all people support him.

As condition for peaceful turnover Arbenz demanded and Diaz gave his word of honor that he would not enter into negotiations with Castillo Armas. I made it clear throughout that I could do no more than use good offices in arranging cease fire on both sides, rejecting over and over again suggestion that US persuade Honduras and Nicaragua deny Castillo use of airfields.

Details follow.

PEURIFO

AB/12

NOTE: Mr. Leddy (NID) notified 11:25 p.m., 6/27/54. CWO/FED.

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